

**A Special Invitation to
National Polish Apostolate Committee Members, Supporters and Polonia
Kindly Spread the Word!**

The Fathers and Brothers serving at the National Shrine invite you to join us for the **coronation of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa.**

The ceremony will take place on **Sunday, August 25 at the 12:30 pm Mass. The celebrant presiding at the liturgy will be the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, OFMCap.**

The Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa was blessed and personally **signed by Pope John Paul II. Pope Francis blessed the crowns, which are replicas of those offered by Pope Clement VI in 1717 for the original Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland.** The crowns are tokens of the gratitude felt by pilgrims for all of the spiritual help given to them by Our Lady in their times of difficulty and struggle

On the occasion of the coronation, **Pope Francis has granted all pilgrims who visit the Shrine from the beginning of May until the end of October a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions.** We invite everyone to prepare spiritually for this blessed occasion through novenas, personal prayers, night vigil prayers at our Shrine, and receipt of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You can find more information about this celebration at: <https://www.czestochowa.us/coronation>

We look forward to your presence at the coronation itself on Sunday, August 25 as we join you in prayer.

Visit our website at: PolishApostolate.com

Our Lady of Czestochowa

Saint Luke the Evangelist, according to tradition, is believed to be the original artist of this painting in which Mary is depicted holding the Christ Child. This sacred picture, enshrined and venerated at the renowned Marian Shrine in Poland, was first brought from Jerusalem through Constantinople and was bestowed to the Princess of Ruthenia. It was brought to Poland in 1382 through the efforts of Ladislaus of Opole who had discovered it in a castle at Belz. To ensure its protection, he invited the Monks of Saint Paul the First Hermit from Hungary to be its guardians.

From this time onward, the historic records of the painting are documented and authenticated by the miracles associated with the painting. In 1430, a devastating attack on the Polish Shrine resulted in tragic losses and the damaging of the holy picture. To this very day, despite the attempts to repair the damage, the slashes on the face of the Virgin Mary are still visible.

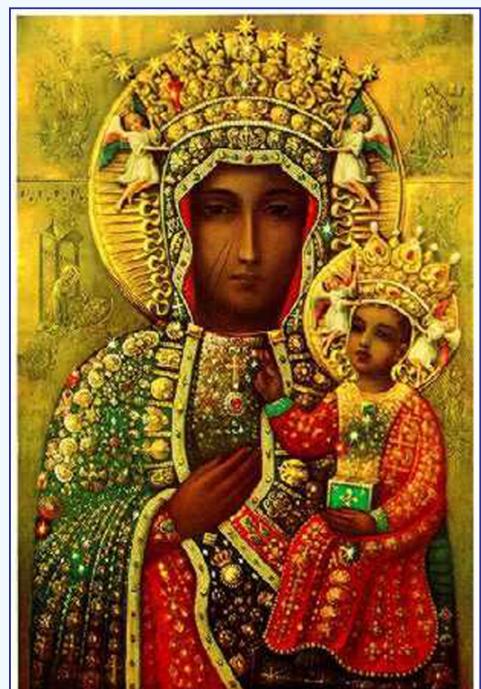
The foundation of the Monastery and Shrine in Czestochowa began with a small wooden church. Subsequent development (1632-48) led to the construction of the present day basilica and defense wall which surrounds the sacred buildings. Under the heroic leadership of the Prior of the Monastery, Father Augustine Kordecki, the Shrine withstood the attacks of the Swedish Invasion of 1655. This great victory proved to be a tremendous boost to the morale of the entire Polish nation.

As a result, King Jan Casimir, in 1656, made a solemn vow proclaiming the Mother of God to be the "Queen of the Polish Crown" and the Shrine of Jasna Gora to be the "Mount of Victory" and a spiritual capital for Poland.

During the years of Poland's partition (1772-1918) the Shrine of Jasna Gora became a vibrant link for the Polish people with their homeland. The holy painting enshrined at Czestochowa beamed as a lighthouse of hope during the painful years of national hardships and defeats.

Following the restoration of national independence in 1918, pilgrimages to the Polish Shrine grew in number and size. As World War II ended, a nation devastated by the scourges of war drew new strength and courage from the Shrine to rebuild and recover from the war. Today the Shrine of Czestochowa in Poland attracts millions of worshipers and tourists who come to honor the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

In 1966, in celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of Poland's Christianity, a National Shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa was dedicated in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and is under the direction of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers who also administer the Shrine in Poland.



Everyone is invited to the

Polish American Festival

**Celebrating the 38th Anniversary of
October as Polish American Heritage Month**

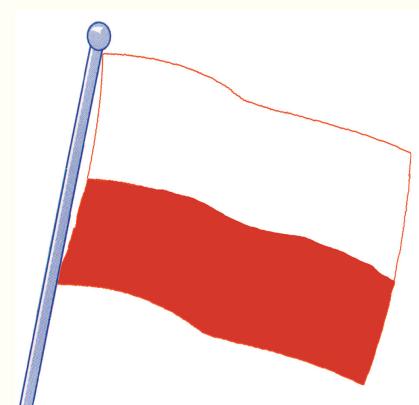
Saturday, October 5, 2019 – 3 to 9 PM

On the grounds and in the auditorium of

Saint John Cantius

4415 Almond Street

in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia



Admission is free

Presented by:

Polish American Social Services and State Street Events

The festival will feature:

**Polish and American food and refreshments, Live music,
Polish Dancers and DJ – A variety of vendors, and much more.**

There will be various parking locations for the festival.

**There will also be a parking shuttle running from the parking locations with drop-offs and pick-ups
at Almond and Orthodox Street before, during, and at the end of the festival.**

Details will be posted on our Internet site.

For additional information, contact the

Polish American Cultural Center Museum during regular business hours at **215-922-1700**
or visit our website at: **PolishAmericanCenter.com or StateStreetEvents.org**

Vendors Contact: Melissa@StateStreetEvents.org